



Aruba The News



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Carnaval 55 draws to a close with the spectacle of Aruba's Grand Parade in Oranjestad



Sunday was the culmination of six weeks of carnival festivities and preparation for the

grandest event of all, Aruba's Grand Carnival Parade. Thousands danced down the

Vondellaan and L.G. Smith Boulevard garbed in glittering and brilliantly hued costumes, and the lively sound of the music which is especially composed to accompany the parades.

Champagne Group dazzled with their Monarchs of the World and Los Laga Bai, which traditionally chooses a theme that typifies some aspect of Aruba, glorified the Trupial of Arikok, the island's national bird. OPC featured floats and roadpieces manned by what had to be the best bodies on the island, all of them obviously "pumped up" for the grand event.

This year, fantasy themes dominated many of the floats,

which were beautifully decorated with dragons, unicorns and winged seahorses, while the amazingly colorful feathered costumes completed the imaginative themes, as did equally fantastic make-up.

2009 was the emerald anniversary of organized Carnival on Aruba involving to whole community. The additional effort and creativity to make it a particularly memorable one was evident in the grandeur and pageantry of the Oranjestad Grand Parade!

Carnaval 55 will officially end tonight at midnight as one last parade wends its way through the streets of Oranjestad to end with the Burning of the Momo. Rey Momo

embodies the spirit of Carnival, and with his demise, Carnival ends and Ash Wednesday begins. Never fear, come November 11 of 2009, he will rise again as Aruba welcomes Carnaval 56!

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